

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to express the sorrow of the General Assembly
at the death of John Howard "J.H." Warf.

WHEREAS, it was with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of John Howard "J. H." Warf, one of the most dedicated and influential public servants this state has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, a former Commissioner of Education and charter member of the Tennessee Board of Regents, Mr. Warf's exemplary career spanned more than sixty years; and

WHEREAS, probably more than any other single individual, Mr. Warf had a profound impact on higher education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Warf served astutely as Commissioner of Education from 1963-1971 in the cabinets of both Governors Clement and Ellington; and

WHEREAS, during his meritorious tenure as Commissioner, Mr. Warf established Tennessee's community college system; from his singular vision, the system has now grown to include fourteen community colleges and numerous state technical and vocational schools; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Board of Regents was created during Commissioner Warf's administration to oversee all state colleges and universities outside of the University of Tennessee, and is now one of the ten largest higher education systems in the nation; and

WHEREAS, his phenomenal contributions to higher education in Tennessee are perhaps best exemplified by his estimable service as a charter member of the Tennessee Board of Regents, he continued to serve with distinction on the board at the time of his demise; and

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WHEREAS, the value of his service to the Board of Regents was so indisputable that the General Assembly had passed laws in recent years to ensure his continued involvement in determining Tennessee's present and future direction in higher education; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the General Assembly enacted a special statute to retain Mr. Warf as a charter member of the Board of Regents, marking the sixth time that the legislature had so acted to keep him in that position; and

WHEREAS, these legislative enactments speak volumes about the high regard in which the members of this Body held Mr. Warf; he was universally respected and admired on Capitol Hill as a force to be reckoned with in the realm of education; and

WHEREAS, after a bid to serve as Comptroller of the Treasury, Mr. Warf returned home to Lewis County politics in 1971, and remained active there until 1976, when he withdrew from all committees and political boards; and

WHEREAS, during his proficient term of service in local government, Mr. Warf was responsible for establishing the Lewis County courthouse, library and community hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Warf was deservedly honored by his receipt of the distinguished Peabody Award from Vanderbilt University's George Peabody School of Education in recognition of his excellent character, ethical work record and international recognition of his large body of work; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Josephine Kistler Warf of Hohenwald; and

WHEREAS, John Howard "J.H." Warf devoted his career and his life to making quality education a reality in Tennessee; the value and impact of his numerous contributions cannot be adequately stated; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should pause to honor the memory of this peerless public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby express our sorrow and sadness at the death of former

Commissioner of Education, John Howard "J.H." Warf, reflecting fondly upon his bountiful life of purpose, integrity and commitment to the highest precepts of quality education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express out sympathy and condolences to Mr. Warf's family and many friends and colleagues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.